



HJ0032

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1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, In July of 2012, United States Army 1st Lieutenant
3 Clint Lorance was a 29 year old leading a new platoon in the
4 82nd Airborne Division in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan; and

5 WHEREAS, On his 3rd day of combat, 1st Lieutenant Clint
6 Lorance was leading his paratroopers through an enemy minefield
7 when 3 Afghan men rapidly approached his platoon on a
8 motorcycle; and

9 WHEREAS, Believing that the men were planning an ambush,
10 1st Lieutenant Clint Lorance ordered his paratroopers to fire
11 on the Afghans, killing 2 of the men; and

12 WHEREAS, Army officials subsequently accused 1st
13 Lieutenant Clint Lorance of violating the rules of engagement;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, In August of 2013, an Army court martial convicted
16 1st Lieutenant Clint Lorance of 2 specifications of murder, one
17 specification of attempted murder, and other crimes; and

18 WHEREAS, After 1st Lieutenant Clint Lorance began serving a
19 20-year sentence at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, his defense
20 lawyers uncovered evidence that the Afghan men were associated

1 with the Taliban; and

2 WHEREAS, These Afghan men were associated with terrorist
3 cells that were responsible for killing 11 United States and
4 Afghan coalition forces and wounding 35 others; and

5 WHEREAS, 1st Lieutenant Clint Lorange's lawyers uncovered
6 the evidence of the terrorist connections after he was sent to
7 prison; and

8 WHEREAS, 1st Lieutenant Clint Lorange's lawyers have filed
9 post-trial appeals in his case, alleging that the Army withheld
10 this and other exculpatory evidence that was vital to his
11 criminal defense; and

12 WHEREAS, The people of the State of Illinois support what
13 President Abraham Lincoln did in another war - granting
14 clemency toward American service members; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
16 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
17 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the United States Army
18 and the President to grant 1st Lieutenant Clint Lorange
19 clemency in his case or, in the alternative, a new trial; and
20 be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we state our belief that the elected
2 officials of this nation should not turn against those young
3 men and women that they send into harm's way; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That we call for the healing of the wounds that
5 have been caused by this long war in Afghanistan, just as
6 President Lincoln did when he used his powers to pardon
7 soldiers in the Civil War; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
9 delivered to 1st Lieutenant Clint Lorance, President Barack
10 Obama, Senator Dick Durbin, Senator Mark Kirk, Senator John
11 McCain, and Senator Lindsey Graham.